

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-25 (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing the water repellency of an inorganic hydraulic binder composition, comprising the step of adding a sufficient amount of at least one monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid to said composition, said acid having an hydrocarbon chain optionally having halogens, hydroxyl groups, ether groups, thioether groups, ester groups, amide groups, carboxyl groups, sulfonic acid groups, carboxylic anhydride groups or carbonyl groups

wherein the monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid has the formula $C_nH_{(2n-1)}OOX^+$ wherein $n = 4$ to 18 and X is an alkali metal.

27. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid is in the form of a powder in the inorganic hydraulic binder composition.

28. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the amount is between 0.001% and 3% by dry weight of the monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid, with respect to the total weight of the composition.

29. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the amount is between 0.01% and 0.5%.

30. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the amount is between 0.03% and 0.15%.

31. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 26, further comprising the step of premixing the monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid with a latex composition.

32. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the amount of the monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid, with respect to the total weight of dry latex, is between 0.1 and 20% by weight, with respect to the weight of the dry latex.

33. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in 31, wherein the monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid is added in the powder form to the latex composition in the form of a redispersible powder.

34. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid is added in the powder or solution form to the latex composition in the form of an aqueous dispersion during the polymerization or at the end of the polymerization.

35. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid is added in the powder form to the latex composition during a further step of drying by atomization of the latex.

36. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the latex composition comprises:

at least one water-insoluble polymer,

from 0 to 35% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the polymer, of at least one protective colloid,

from 0 to 30% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the polymer, of anticaking agents,

and

from 0.1 to 20% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the polymer, of at least one monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid.

37. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the water-insoluble polymer is obtained by polymerization of vinyl esters, alkyl acrylates, alkyl methacrylates, whose alkyl group has from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, and/or vinylaromatic monomers.

38. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the water-insoluble polymer is obtained by polymerization of monomers selected from the group consisting of:

vinyl acetate,

methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate,

methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, and

styrene.

39. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the monomers are further copolymerized with other monomers possessing ethylenic unsaturation being olefins, vinyl esters of saturated, branched or unbranched, monocarboxylic acids having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, esters of branched C₉-C₁₁ acids, vinyl pivalate or vinyl laurate; esters of unsaturated mono- or dicarboxylic acids having 3 to 6 carbon atoms with alkanols having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, vinylaromatic monomers, vinyl halides, diolefins, (meth)allyl esters of (meth)acrylic acids; (meth)allyl esters of the mono- and diesters of maleic, fumaric and itaconic acid; or alkene derivatives of amides of acrylic and methacrylic acids.

40. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the anticaking agents are aluminum silicates, calcium carbonates, magnesium carbonates, silicas, aluminum hydrate, bentonite, talc, kaolin, barium sulfate, titanium oxide, or calcium sulfoaluminate (satin white).

41. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid has the formula C_nH_(2n-1)OOX⁺ wherein n = 4 to 18 and X is sodium, potassium, lithium, ammonium or quaternary amines.

42. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in 41, wherein $n = 8$ to 16.
43. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid is sodium laurate and/or potassium laurate.
44. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the hydraulic binder is a cement, cement of Portland, high-alumina cement, blast-furnace cement, fly ash, calcined shale or pozzolan.
45. (Previously Presented) A grout, mortar or concrete comprising an inorganic hydraulic binder composition made by the process of claim 26.
46. (New) A method for enhancing the water repellency of an inorganic hydraulic binder composition, comprising the step of adding a sufficient amount of at least one monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid to said composition, said acid having an hydrocarbon chain optionally having halogens, hydroxyl groups, ether groups, thioether groups, ester groups, amide groups, carboxyl groups, sulfonic acid groups, carboxylic anhydride groups or carbonyl groups and the step of premixing the monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid with a latex composition wherein the latex composition comprises:
- at least one water-insoluble polymer,
- from 0 to 35% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the polymer, of at least one protective colloid,
- from 0 to 30% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the polymer, of anticaking agents wherein the anticaking agents are aluminum silicates, calcium carbonates, magnesium carbonates, silicas, aluminum hydrate, bentonite, talc, kaolin, barium sulfate, titanium oxide or calcium sulfoaluminate (satin white), and

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from 0.1 to 20% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the polymer, of at least one monovalent cation salt of a carboxylic acid.